

REMARKS

Claim Status

Claims 25, 26, 29 and 32-53 are pending in the present application. Claims 38-43, 46, 47 and 49 have been amended in an editorial manner and not in response to the prior art or any formal requirements. No forfeiture of equivalent arrangements is intended. Claim 51 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner to fix a minor typo.

New dependent claims 52 and 53 are presented herein. Support for these claims is found throughout the specification, e.g., as seen on page 4, lines 20-23.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

We greatly appreciate the indication that claims 26, 32, 37-39 are allowed, and that claim 29, 34-36 and 41-50 recite allowable subject matter. We also express appreciation that the only rejection of claims 25, 33 and 40 is a double patenting rejection, which is addressed below. The application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Amendment to the Specification

The Specification has been amended in an editorial manner and to include an application number. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added.

Provisional Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 25, 33 and 40 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of assignee's U.S. Patent Application No. 09/810,080.

Without conceding the merits of this rejection, we are providing a terminal disclaimer over the 09/810,080 application herewith.

The application should now be ready for allowance.

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement and Form-1449 are provided herewith.
Consideration of the information disclosed therein is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The application stands ready for allowance. Early passage to issuance is respectfully requested. Nevertheless, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions.

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Respectfully submitted,

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